Manning of Level Crossings is planned Zone wise and not State wise. However, all the level crossings qualifying the criteria of manning are planned for manning.

Container transport operations

2080. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement between the Railways and 14 private players in containers operation;

(b) whether Government are considering more private investment in Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and areas identified for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The Agreement has been framed keeping in view the best international practices being followed; it is bankable, ensures a level-playing field among various container train operators and adequately addresses the national & public interest perspective as also concerns of the private players.

(b) and (c) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality areas have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Rail service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin

2081. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a service organisation, it is not prudent to go for railway service to certain unserved areas;

(b) if so, in that process whether there would be a new railway service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin *via* Keelakarai, Erwadi, Kamudhi,

Sayalkudi on the one side and from Ramnad to Devakottai Road *via* Devipattinam, R.S. Mangalam on the other Side;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted; and

(d) if not, by when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) A large number of new line projects have been taken up which on completion would provide connectivity to new areas.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Survey is not sanctioned. No time schedule is feasible to be given.

Rail projects of North Frontier Railway

2082. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason as to why the electrification of railway lines has not been done yet in any portion under N.F. Railway;

(b) the stipulated time if any, by when the conversion of metre gauge from Rangiya to Murkhongselek rail line would be started; and

(c) the extension of double railway line from New Bongaigaon to Guwahati, if any time has been stipulated for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Electrification of Indian Railway network is generally done after considering the operational and financial viability of the sections being proposed for electrification and also taking into account the traffic density in terms of Gross Million Tonnes being carried in the section. In this regard, sections wherein there is a heavy flow of freight traffic are also the sections having higher Gross Million Tonnes. Accordingly, these high-density corridors have got preference in electrification. Kathiar-Guwahati section of Northeast Frontier Railway which is a part of Lucknow-Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Barauni-Kathiar-Guwahati high density route has been identified as one of the such routes to be taken up for electrification during the 11th Five Year Plan.

(b) The work of gauge conversion of Rangiya-Murkongselek Metre Gauge line to Broad Gauge has already been taken up. The detailed survey on